

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,355

Examiner

Duc C. Ho

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Art Unit

2619

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 10-11-07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11-18-04 | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reason for Allowance

1. Regarding claims 1-7, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a computing system comprising a routing control mechanism for controlling the flow of packets on the packet transmission network, the routing control mechanism being connected to the packet transmission network, wherein each module generates to the routing control mechanism a transfer request to request transfer of a current packet and an arbitration request requesting a routing decision for a later packet, and wherein each module makes the arbitration request simultaneously with the transfer request for the current packet, in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 1.

Regarding claims 8-12, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a method for connecting to a packet transmission network using a device having packet handling circuitry for generating and receiving packets conveyed by the packet transmission network, wherein the device generates packet flow control requests on the packet transmission network, the flow control requests including a step in which an arbitration request with a destination indicator identifying a destination of a second packet, wherein the arbitration request is made prior to completion of transfer of the first packet on the packet transmission network, in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 8.

Regarding claims 13-16, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a packet routing mechanism for routing packets between a source device and a destination device that are interconnected via a packet transmission network, the routing mechanism comprising

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a flow control mechanism coupled to the arbitration mechanism and the decision queue and wherein the flow control mechanism issues a handshake control to the source device in response to the request indicating that a routing decision has been made; and a transfer mechanism coupled to the packet transmission network for implementing a packet transfer according to a stored routing decision, wherein the arbitration mechanism is configured to make an routing decision for a later packet while a current packet is being transferred by the transfer mechanism, in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 13.

Regarding claims 17-20, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a method for making pipelined routing decisions in a computer system comprising a step of effecting a transfer of the current packet based on an earlier routing decision while making a routing decision in relation to the later packet, wherein the arbitration request is made a number of cycles later from the transfer request during the effecting of the transfer of the current packet, in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 17.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2988.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner



Duc Ho

10-19-07